



Borough of Aylesbury

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE HEALTH OF THE BOROUGH
FOR THE YEAR 1967

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HEALTH COMMITTEE

(Constituted May, 1967)

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Councillor B. G. L. Switzer (Vice-Chairman)
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Alderman D. B. Harrison
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Councillor Mrs. Roberts
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STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

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Dennis W. Rixon, C.R.S.H.

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CLERICAL STAFF

Miss V. Slingsbury

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Borough of Aylesbury

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
MUNICIPAL OFFICES,
FRIARS SQUARE,
AYLESBURY.
June, 1968

MR. MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS,

The health statistics for 1967 show marginal improvements in several respects; the death and infant mortality rates have been reduced and are appreciably lower than the rates for the country as a whole. Again there were no maternal deaths. These figures should give encouragement to our local domiciliary and hospital maternity services, working as they do, under pressure for beds and sufficient trained nursing staff. There would seem to be ample justification for the so-called 48 hours admissions to hospital for delivery in normal cases who require this for social or other reasons. On discharge they are handed over to the domiciliary nursing service for the remainder of their confinement. To use industrial terms, it would appear that turnover and productivity have been increased to the benefit of the consumers.

Another welcome feature is a further reduction in the percentage of illegitimate births from the 1965 peak. It will be interesting to see what effect, if any, the proposed Abortion Act will have in this respect, and also the National Health Service (Family Planning) Act, 1967, which extended the categories of women who might be referred to family planning clinics.

Food Hygiene

The circumstances of every local case of food poisoning are reported fully to the Ministry of Health, and recent statistics based on these reports show a more encouraging national picture. In 1957 there were 7,071 outbreaks, involving 15,100 cases and 36 deaths. In 1966 there were 3,744 outbreaks, involving 8,784 cases and 26 deaths. These figures are still intolerably high, but they show a steady decline in incidence and encourage those of us who place our hopes in supervision of food handlers, control of outbreaks and education of the general public. Only two cases of food poisoning were notified in the Borough last year, both due to salmonella organisms.

The salmonella group of organisms, which infects both man and animals, is the largest single group of food poisoners, and over the ten year period shows the least decline. Eventual control of this group will depend on close co-operation between the veterinary profession and ourselves, as a recent outbreak in the area has illustrated. If the farmer and his family become infected from the cattle it clearly requires a combined operation to deal effectively with the situation, and needless to say, the general practitioner must be kept fully informed. There is the further complication that imported meat and animal feeding stuffs which are infected, occasionally slip through for distribution in spite of bacteriological testing of samples at the port of entry. However, with a reduction of 58% in the number of cases of food poisoning over the last ten year period there are grounds for hope that present methods of control are working, however slowly.

A further course which was quite well attended by those employed in the food industry in the Borough was held at the College of Further Education during the year.

Tuberculosis

During the year 11 new cases of respiratory tuberculosis were notified. This is 3 more than the previous year, and shows a rise of 0.1 in the rate per 1,000 population. The usual follow-up of home and work contacts was carried out by the Chest Clinic

| New Cases | | | | |
|------------------|-------------------|--------------|--------------------|---|
| <i>Year</i> | <i>Population</i> | <i>Total</i> | <i>Respiratory</i> | <i>Rate per 1,000 of Population</i> |
| 1957 | 22,360 | 16 | 14 | 0.63 |
| 1958 | 22,960 | 16 | 11 | 0.48 |
| 1959 | 23,580 | 22 | 17 | 0.72 |
| 1960 | 24,410 | 12 | 6 | 0.25 |
| 1961 | 27,040 | 5 | 5 | 0.18 |
| 1962 | 29,090 | 10 | 7 | 0.24 |
| 1963 | 31,030 | 17 | 15 | 0.48 |
| 1964 | 32,510 | 9 | 7 | 0.22 |
| 1965 | 33,680 | 9 | 6 | 0.11 |
| 1966 | 34,380 | 11 | 8 | 0.23 |
| 1967 | 35,190 | 12 | 11 | 0.31 |

As a result of discussions with the County Chest Physician some alterations have been made in the scheme for detection of tuberculosis in recently arrived immigrants. Where previously the immigrant was urged when first visited to register as soon as possible with a general practitioner who would consider if chest x-ray was necessary, he is now given a fixed appointment for himself and family to attend the chest clinic. Very few appointments have failed, and if they have, a further home visit has been made. There is the additional advantage that the children can be skin tested and given B.C.G. vaccination, if necessary, at the clinic. Ninety-nine immigrants gave Aylesbury as their initial destination at the port of entry.

Venereal Disease

Figures obtained from the Royal Bucks Hospital of persons living in Aylesbury and attending the special clinic show a decline on the previous year. There were no new cases of syphilis, and 22 new cases of gonorrhoea. These figures for new cases include those who were previously cured and became re-infected during the year. This is unfortunately not an uncommon occurrence, because a man, usually, unmarried, who habitually consorts with prostitutes is bound to become re-infected sooner or later. Quite a number of people who fear that they may have venereal disease are seen at the clinic and can be reassured that this is not so.

Infectious Diseases

During September a young man was admitted to the Isolation Hospital, Stoke Mandeville, and was diagnosed as a case of typhoid fever. He had recently arrived

by air from Pakistan, and had travelled direct to relatives in Aylesbury, who lived in a house of multiple occupation. He was ill for several days before admission to hospital.

On investigation it was found that one member of the household worked in a food manufacturing concern, and he was immediately suspended from work pending bacteriological tests. All members, including the food handler, were cleared after three consecutive tests, a fortunate result in view of the fact that all had used the same lavatory as the case. The job of explaining the situation and collecting the specimens was carried out patiently and effectively by the Public Health Inspectors. The case is mentioned because it illustrated well the difficulties in dealing with this kind of situation as speedily as possible. First, there is the language barrier. Even when this can be overcome by an efficient interpreter, there is the immigrants fear, caused by lack of knowledge, that some penalty will result from involvement in the situation. This means that accounts of movements and contacts have to be checked and re-checked before being accepted as reasonably reliable. No doubt time will lessen these difficulties, but they do cause anxiety in a situation when speed and accuracy of detail count for so much.

For the second year running there were over 400 cases of measles. It seems certain that a start will be made in vaccination against measles during the coming year. Only children who have not had the disease will require vaccination, and in view of the high infection rate in recent years, there should not be very many, in the school age group at least, who will require this. If measles can be prevented it will be of enormous benefit to children and parents alike, and my hard worked colleagues in general practice will certainly heave a sigh of relief.

A full report on the deaths of infants due to virus pneumonia was submitted to you during the year. Our knowledge of the epidemiology of this condition is far from complete.

In contrast to the serious outbreak of sonne dysentery during 1966, only 12 cases were notified, 8 of these being patients at the Manor House Hospital. In previous Reports mention has been made of the risk of infection with Brucella Abortus by drinking unpasteurised milk. It is encouraging to note that a start has been made in establishing Brucella free areas in the Country. One case of human brucellosis occurred in the Borough, but this was due to handling infected cattle rather than drinking infected milk.

I would like to thank the members of the Committee for their continued advice and support throughout the year, my Deputy, Dr. Slocombe, for assisting in the preparation of this Report, and the Borough Public Health Inspector and all members of the Public Health Department for their willing co-operation at all times.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

A. W. PRINGLE,

B.A., M.B., B.CH., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

| | |
|---|-------------|
| Area | 3,594 acres |
| Population (estimated mid-1967) | 35,190 |
| Number of inhabited houses (at end of 1967 according to Rate Books) | 10,982 |
| Rateable Value | £2,283,915 |
| Sum represented by a penny rate | £9,300 |

VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

Live Births:—

| | 1966 | | | 1967 | | |
|--|------|-----|-------|-------|-----|-------|
| | M | F | Total | M | F | Total |
| Legitimate | 416 | 346 | 762 | 369 | 373 | 742 |
| Illegitimate | 32 | 27 | 59 | 22 | 28 | 50 |
| Rate per 1,000 population | | | | 23.88 | | 22.22 |
| Rate (corrected) | | | | 20.30 | | 18.89 |
| Rate for England and Wales | | | | 17.7 | | 17.2 |
| Illegitimate live births (per cent of total live births) | | | | 7.19 | | 6.31 |

Still Births:—

| | 1966 | | | 1967 | | |
|--|------|---|-------|-------|---|-------|
| | M | F | Total | M | F | Total |
| Legitimate | 6 | 8 | 14 | 4 | 3 | 7 |
| Illegitimate | — | 1 | 1 | — | 2 | 2 |
| Rate per 1,000 total live and still births | | | | 17.94 | | 11.24 |

DEATHS

| | 1966 | | | 1967 | | |
|------------------------------------|------|-----|-------|-------|-----|-------|
| | M | F | Total | M | F | Total |
| Deaths | 184 | 123 | 307 | 143 | 128 | 271 |
| Rate per 1,000 population | | | | 8.93 | | 7.70 |
| Standardised Rate | | | | 11.70 | | 10.01 |
| Rate for England and Wales | | | | 11.7 | | 11.2 |

Deaths of infants under one year of age:—

| | 1966 | | | 1967 | | |
|----------------------|------|---|-------|------|---|-------|
| | M | F | Total | M | F | Total |
| Legitimate | 6 | 5 | 11 | 5 | 5 | 10 |
| Illegitimate | — | 3 | 3 | 1 | — | 1 |

Death rate of infants under one year of age:—

| | 1966 | 1967 |
|---|-------|-------|
| All infants per 1,000 live births | 17.05 | 13.89 |
| Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births | 14.44 | 13.48 |
| Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births | 50.85 | 20.00 |
| Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales | 19.0 | 18.3 |

Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age:—

| | | | 1966 | | | 1967 | | |
|--|----|---|------|-------|-------|------|-------|--|
| | | M | F | Total | M | F | Total | |
| Legitimate .. | .. | 6 | 3 | 9 | 4 | 3 | 7 | |
| Illegitimate | .. | — | 3 | 3 | — | — | — | |
| Neo-Natal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total live births | | | | | 1966 | 1967 | | |
| | | | | | 14.62 | 8.84 | | |

Deaths of infants under 1 week of age:—

| 1966 | | | | | 1967 | | |
|---|----|---|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | | M | F | Total | M | F | Total |
| Legitimate .. | .. | 6 | 3 | 9 | 3 | 3 | 6 |
| Illegitimate | .. | — | 3 | 3 | — | — | — |
| Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births) | | | | | 1966 | 1967 | |
| | | | | | 14.62 | 7.58 | |
| Perinatal Mortality Rate (still births and deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live and still births) | | | | | 32.30 | 18.73 | |

Maternal Mortality:—

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| Number of deaths (including abortion) | — | — |
| Rate per 1,000 total live and still births | — | — |

| ANALYSIS OF DEATHS | | | | | | M | F |
|---|----|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|
| Malignant neoplasm, stomach | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 4 | 3 |
| Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 8 | 3 |
| Malignant neoplasm, breast | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | — | 9 |
| Malignant neoplasm, uterus | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | — | 1 |
| Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 11 | 15 |
| Leukaemia, aleukaemia | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | — |
| Diabetes | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 4 |
| Vascular lesions of nervous systems | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 8 | 11 |
| Coronary disease, angina | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 33 | 20 |
| Hypertension with heart disease | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 3 | 5 |
| Other heart disease | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 6 | 10 |
| Other circulatory disease | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 12 | 6 |
| Pneumonia | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 16 | 14 |
| Bronchitis | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 9 | 3 |
| Other diseases of respiratory system | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 4 | 1 |
| Ulcer of stomach and duodenum | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 | 1 |
| Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 | 2 |
| Nephritis and nephrosis | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | — | 1 |
| Hyperplasia of prostate | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 | — |
| Congenital malformations | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 3 | 1 |
| Other defined and ill-defined diseases | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 6 | 13 |
| Motor vehicle accidents | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 4 | 1 |
| All other accidents | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 6 | 3 |
| Suicide | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 | 1 |
| | | | | | | 143 | 128 |

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

Hospitals

During the year the Royal Bucks, Tindal General and Stoke Mandeville Hospitals have provided accommodation for surgical and medical cases, whilst the Isolation Hospital continued to admit persons suffering from infectious diseases.

Stoke Mandeville Hospital also provided accommodation for paraplegic cases.

The above hospitals situated in the Borough are administered by the Royal Buckinghamshire and Associated Hospitals Management Committee, who are responsible to the Oxford Regional Hospital Board.

Pathology Laboratory, Stoke Mandeville Hospital

Routine samples of ice cream and water and other specimens requiring bacteriological examination were sent to this Laboratory throughout the year. Reports were received with the minimum delay, and the help and advice given by the Medical Director were much appreciated.

Ambulance Services

These are provided by the Bucks County Council and are under the direction of the County Medical Officer. Nine ambulances and five dual purpose vehicles were available at the Ambulance Headquarters, Buckingham Road, for use in the Borough and surrounding districts. In addition, there is also a convertible 'ambulance car' for the carrying of sitting or stretcher cases who have to be conveyed by road over long distances. There is two-way radio link between all vehicles and Headquarters.

The majority of long distance journeys are carried out by train, stretcher cases being accommodated in reserved compartments. All casualties in the Borough are conveyed to the Casualty Department of the Royal Bucks Hospital.

Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics

The following Clinics were functioning during the year:—

| <i>Times open</i> | <i>Clinic</i> | <i>Number of children attending</i> | <i>Sessions</i> | <i>Doctor attended</i> |
|-------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|------------------------|
| 74 | Pebble Lane | 539 | Every Tuesday, 2nd and 4th Wednesday | Each session |
| 63 | Quarrendon | 573 | Every Wednesday, 3rd Tuesday (Toddlers) | Each session |
| 24 | Southcourt | 168 | 1st and 3rd Wednesday | Each session |
| 71 | Limes Avenue, Tring Road | 633 | Every Monday, 2nd and 4th Wednesday | Each session |
| 232 | | 1,913 | | |

Child Welfare

Some parents cease to attend the Clinic as soon as all primary immunisations are completed, and the child has reached an age when feeding difficulties are less common. When this happens the child may well not be seen again by a doctor until school entry, unless the general practitioner's advice is sought for some illness. As an

experiment two toddlers' sessions per month were started at the Quarrendon Clinic, appointments being sent to the parents in advance. Judging by the attendances the parents, when reminded, appreciated the opportunity to see the doctor and health visitor.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

| | Total Notifications received | | | Cases admitted to Isolation Hospital | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|------|--------|--------------------------------------|------|
| | 1966 | 1967 | | 1966 | 1967 |
| | | Male | Female | | |
| Measles | 409 | 213 | 232 | — | 1 |
| Whooping Cough \ | 5 | 2 | 1 | — | — |
| Dysentery | 267 | 9 | 3 | 6 8* | 8* |
| Scarlet Fever | 11 | 7 | 7 | — | — |
| Pneumonia | 4 | 1 | 1 | — | 2* |
| Food Poisoning | 3 | 1 | 1 | — | 1 |
| Malaria | 1 | — | — | 1 | — |
| Typhoid Fever | — | 1 | — | — | 1 |
| Puerperal Pyrexia | — | — | 1 | — | — |

*Manor House

Incidence of Notifiable Diseases during the year with analysis under age groups

| | Under 1 year | 1-2 years | 3-4 years | 5-9 years | 10-14 years | 15-24 years | 25-44 years | 45-65 years | Over 65 years | Age Unknown | Totals |
|-------------------|--------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|--------|
| Measles .. | 17 | 158 | 132 | 126 | 7 | 1 | 1 | — | — | 3 | 445 |
| Whooping Cough | — | — | — | 3 | — | — | — | — | — | — | 3 |
| Dysentery .. | — | 4 | 5 | 1 | — | 2 | — | — | — | — | 12 |
| Scarlet Fever | — | 3 | 1 | 9 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | 14 |
| Pneumonia .. | — | — | — | — | — | 2 | — | — | — | — | 2 |
| Food Poisoning | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | 2 |
| Typhoid Fever | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| Puerperal Pyrexia | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | 1 |

TUBERCULOSIS

| | New Cases | | | |
|----------------|-------------|-------|-----------------|---|
| | Respiratory | | Non-Respiratory | |
| | M | F | M | F |
| Age Groups:— | | | | |
| 0— | 1 | — | — | — |
| 1— | — | 1 | — | — |
| 5— | — | — | — | — |
| 15— | — | 1 | — | — |
| 25— | 3 | — | — | 1 |
| 35— | (1) | 1 | — | — |
| 45— | 2 | (1) | — | — |
| 55— | — | 1 | — | — |
| 65 and upwards | 1 | — | — | — |
| Age Unknown | — | — | — | — |
| Total: | 7 (1) | 4 (1) | — | 1 |

The figures in brackets denote the number of cases notified originally in other districts, and who have moved into the Borough during the year.

MASS RADIOGRAPHY SERVICE

No. 1 Unit, Oxford Regional Hospital Board

Report of survey carried out on staff at
Tindal General Hospital on 20/1/67 and 10/3/67

Summary of Work

| | | | | | <i>Male</i> | <i>Female</i> | <i>Total</i> |
|---------------------------------------|----|----|----|----|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| No. of miniature films taken | .. | .. | .. | .. | 23 | 118 | 141 |
| No. referred to Chest Clinic | .. | .. | .. | .. | — | — | — |
| No. previously examined by M.M.R. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 6 | 14 | 20 |
| No. not previously examined by M.M.R. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 17 | 104 | 121 |

Report of survey carried out at H.M. Prison, Aylesbury, on 3/3/67

Summary of Work

| | | | | | <i>Male</i> | <i>Female</i> | <i>Total</i> |
|---------------------------------------|----|----|----|----|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| No. of miniature films taken | .. | .. | .. | .. | 80 | — | 80 |
| No. referred to Chest Clinic | .. | .. | .. | .. | — | — | — |
| No. previously examined by M.M.R. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 72 | — | 72 |
| No. not previously examined by M.M.R. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 8 | — | 8 |

**Summary of newly discovered cases
of significant Tuberculosis**

| <i>Group</i> | | | | <i>No. Examined</i> | <i>Active P.T.</i> | <i>Inactive P.T.</i> |
|--------------|----|----|----|---------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Prisoners | .. | .. | .. | 57 | — | — |
| Staff | .. | .. | .. | 23 | — | — |
| Total: | | | | 80 | — | — |

**Report of survey carried out on staff at
Stoke Mandeville Hospital, Aylesbury, on 13/4/67**

| Summary of Work | | | | <i>Male</i> | <i>Female</i> | <i>Total</i> |
|---|----|----|----|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| No. of miniature films taken | .. | .. | .. | 73 | 121 | 194 |
| No. requiring further investigation | .. | .. | .. | — | 1 | 1 |
| No. previously examined by M.M.R. | .. | .. | .. | 51 | 83 | 134 |
| No. not previously examined by M.M.R. | .. | .. | .. | 22 | 38 | 60 |
| Result of case requiring further investigation | | | | | | |
| Normal | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| | .. | .. | .. | — | 1 | 1 |

**Report of survey carried out at H.M. Prison,
Aylesbury, on 7/7/67 and 20/7/67**

| Summary of Work | | | | <i>Male</i> | <i>Female</i> | <i>Total</i> |
|---------------------------------------|----|----|----|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| No. of miniature films taken | .. | .. | .. | 239 | 4 | 243 |
| No. referred to Chest Clinic | .. | .. | .. | — | — | — |
| No. referred to general practitioners | .. | .. | .. | — | — | — |
| No. previously examined by M.M.R. | .. | .. | .. | 208 | 3 | 211 |
| No. not previously examined by M.M.R. | .. | .. | .. | 31 | 1 | 32 |

Summary of newly discovered significant cases of Tuberculosis

| <i>Group</i> | | | | <i>No. Examined</i> | <i>Active P.T.</i> | <i>Inactive P.T.</i> |
|--------------|----|----|----|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| | | | | | <i>Rate per 1000</i> | |
| Staff | .. | .. | .. | 61 | — | — |
| Prisoners | .. | .. | .. | 182 | — | — |
| Total: | | | | 243 | — | — |

**Report of survey carried out at Tindal General Hospital
(Staff) Aylesbury, on 6th October, 1967**

| Summary of Work | | | | <i>Male</i> | <i>Female</i> | <i>Total</i> |
|---------------------------------------|----|----|----|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| No. of miniature films taken | .. | .. | .. | 25 | 78 | 103 |
| No. referred to Chest Clinic | .. | .. | .. | — | — | — |
| No. referred to general practitioners | .. | .. | .. | — | — | — |
| No. previously examined by M.M.R. | .. | .. | .. | 12 | 30 | 42 |
| No. not previously examined by M.M.R. | .. | .. | .. | 13 | 48 | 61 |

**Summary of newly discovered significant
cases of Tuberculosis**

Nil.

Report of survey carried out at Manor House Hospital,

Response:—88% Aylesbury, on 27/10/67

Summary of Work

| | | | | | Male | Female | Total |
|---------------------------------------|----|----|----|----|------|--------|-------|
| No. of miniature films taken | .. | .. | .. | .. | 40 | 128 | 168 |
| No. referred to Chest Clinic | .. | .. | .. | .. | — | — | — |
| No. referred to general practitioners | .. | .. | .. | .. | — | — | — |
| No. previously examined by M.M.R. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 28 | 117 | 145 |
| No. not previously examined by M.M.R. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 12 | 11 | 23 |

Summary of newly discovered significant cases of Tuberculosis

| Group | | | | No. Examined | Active P.T. Rate per 1000 | Inactive P.T. |
|----------|----|----|----|--------------|------------------------------|---------------|
| Patients | .. | .. | .. | 89 | — | — |
| Staff | .. | .. | .. | 79 | — | — |
| Total: | | | | 168 | — | — |

Report of survey carried out at Royal Buckinghamshire Hospital (Staff) Aylesbury, on 2/11/1967

Response: 96%

Summary of Work

| | | | | | Male | Female | Total |
|---------------------------------------|----|----|----|----|------|--------|-------|
| No. of miniature films taken | .. | .. | .. | .. | 39 | 143 | 182 |
| No. referred to Chest Clinic | .. | .. | .. | .. | — | — | — |
| No. referred to general practitioners | .. | .. | .. | .. | — | — | — |
| No. previously examined by M.M.R. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 37 | 120 | 157 |
| No. not previously examined by M.M.R. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 | 23 | 25 |

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AREA

Water Supply

The water supply of the Borough is obtained through the Bucks Water Board from wells situated at Dancers End, New Ground, Hawridge and High Wycombe.

Sampling has been carried out during the year by the Water Authority at their wells and also in the town.

Eleven samples of water were taken from the main service by this Department during the year, all of which proved to be satisfactory.

All houses in the Borough are connected to the main supply and the quantity of water supplied to the town is adequate.

Drainage

Although the whole of the surface water has not been separated from the foul drainage within the central area, it can be assumed that the Borough is drained on the separate system.

Sewage Disposal Works

The Sewage Disposal Works constructed at the confluence of the Bear Brook and the River Thame is producing effluent well within the Thames Conservancy's standard, and is to be extended to cater for the increase in population of the Borough.

Sludge Disposal

This is by means of tankers and is distributed in liquid form on surrounding farms.

Public Cleansing

Refuse disposal is carried out by controlled tipping at Calvert, thirteen miles on the Bicester side of Aylesbury. The new controlled tip has been in operation since May, 1964, and is proving satisfactory.

A comprehensive salvage collection scheme is in operation. The Corporation has three suction type sweepers which have proved themselves invaluable during the year.

Open-Air Swimming Pool, Park Street

The water in the pool circulates continuously throughout the period of use, being filtered and chlorinated before re-introduction to the swimming pool. Fifty-three samples of water were taken for chlorine content and pH value during the summer months.

School Swimming Pools

During the year, and at the request of the County Health Inspector, the Department accepted responsibility for sampling the school swimming pools in the Borough the numbers of which are rapidly increasing.

Thirty-one samples were taken during the year, the majority of which proved satisfactory. In one case poor results were obtained, and with the assistance of the Baths Superintendent, the person in charge of the pool was advised on steps to take to ensure that the water remained in a satisfactory condition.

Hot Baths

Attendances at the Hot Baths, adjoining the Swimming Pool at Park Street, amounted to a total of 3,311 during the year. The total for 1966 was 1,689.

Schools

The water supply and sanitary accommodation to all schools in the Borough are adequate.

Local Rainfall

| | | | | | | | |
|----------|----|----|-----------|-----------|----|----|-----------|
| January | .. | .. | 1.40 ins. | July | .. | .. | 3.53 ins. |
| February | .. | .. | 2.75 ins. | August | .. | .. | 2.40 ins. |
| March | .. | .. | 1.50 ins. | September | .. | .. | 2.48 ins. |
| April | .. | .. | 1.88 ins. | October | .. | .. | 5.49 ins. |
| May | .. | .. | 4.44 ins. | November | .. | .. | 1.86 ins. |
| June | .. | .. | 1.74 ins. | December | .. | .. | 2.53 ins. |

(Figures supplied by Mr. B. G. Hannay, Borough Engineer and Surveyor).

Mr. Hannay stated that the total rainfall for the year was 32.00 inches, which, for the second year in succession, is well above the yearly average of 24.90 inches. Rain fell on 174 days, compared with 178 days in 1966. The readings for February and May were the highest for 10 years, and the October figure of 5.49 inches was, for the second year running, the second highest recorded in 60 years.

The highest daily rainfall occurred on 22nd July, when 1.94 inches were recorded.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Meat and Other Foods

Carcases Inspected and Condemned

| | Cattle excluding Cows | Cows | Calves | Sheep and Lambs | Pigs |
|--|-----------------------------|--------|--------|-----------------------|---------|
| Number killed and inspected | 194 | 25 | — | 309 | 217 |
| All Diseases except Tuberculosis | | | | | |
| Whole carcases condemned . . | — | — | — | 7 | 3 |
| Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned . . | 114 | 2 | — | 132 | 37 |
| Percentage of number inspec- ted affected with disease other than Tuberculosis . . | 58.76 % | 8.00 % | — | 44.98 % | 18.43 % |
| Tuberculosis only | | | | | |
| Whole carcases condemned . . | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned . . | — | — | — | — | 2 |
| Percentage of number inspec- ted affected with Tubercu- losis | 0.52 % | — | — | — | 0.92 % |
| Cysticercus Bovis | | | | | |
| Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned . . | 4 | — | — | — | — |
| Carcases submitted for treat- ment by refrigeration . . | 4 | — | — | — | — |
| Generalised and totally con- demned | — | — | — | — | — |

Eight licences were issued to slaughtermen during the year.

FACTORIES AND WORKPLACES

Informal action has been taken where necessary under the provisions of the Factories Act, 1937, to remedy contraventions of the requirements of this Act in mechanical and non-mechanical factories and workplaces.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937

1. Inspections for the purposes of provisions as to health

| | Number of | | |
|---|-------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| | Inspections | Written Notices | Occupiers Prosecuted |
| Factories without mechanical power Factories with mechanical power | 63 | — | — |

2. Defects found—Nil.
Outwork in unwholesome premises

There are nine outworkers' premises in the town, all of which are in a satisfactory condition.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOROUGH PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR



Public Health Department,
Municipal Offices,
Friars Square,
Aylesbury.

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the work of the Public Health Department during the year 1967. This is the 25th such Report I have had the honour to present, and before detailing the work of the Department during the year I thought it might be interesting to note some comparisons over the quarter of a century during which I have been presenting these Reports.

In the Report for 1943, because of war conditions, the population figure was omitted, but as the figure for 1944 was 19,910 and the number of inhabited houses was only three more in that year than in 1943, it is fairly safe to assume that the population was somewhere in the region of 19,900 compared with the figure of 35,190 for 1967.

The staff in 1943 consisted of myself, Mr. Andrew, Additional Sanitary Inspector, who was at the time a prisoner of war in Japanese hands, and one temporary Additional Sanitary Inspector who served from 8th March to 20th October. The clerical staff consisted of two male clerks serving with the Forces, and two temporary female clerks. The staff for the year 1967 consisted of myself, three Additional Public Health Inspectors and two clerks.

When one looks at the returns of infectious diseases, diphtheria had practically disappeared by 1943, due to the immunisation campaign, but scarlet fever accounted for 109 notifications in that year, whereas of recent years it has been practically absent from the notification list. In the field of meat inspection, the most significant changes are, firstly, the almost complete eradication of tuberculosis. In 1943 11.32% of cattle, excluding cows, examined, 34.11% of cows, and 4.64% of pigs, were affected with tuberculosis, whereas in the last complete year for which figures are available, slaughtering having ceased in the town in March, 1967, no bovine animals were found to be affected with tuberculosis, and only 0.32% of pigs. On the other hand, in 1966 three bovine carcasses were found to be affected with *cysticercus bovis*, whereas in 1943 this disease is not mentioned, it being presumed at that time that the disease was not found in England, its presence now being accounted for by the fact that it is believed to have been brought to this country and spread in rural areas by prisoners of war from central Europe, who worked on the land during the war.

Rat and mouse destruction in 1943 was operated under the 1919 Act, which did not require a Local Authority to actively engage in this work. The work of the Department in this field then consisted mainly of giving advice to persons reporting rats and mice on their premises, and inviting them to contact a person known to the Department who carried out rodent destruction in his spare time. A note is contained in the Report for that year that the control of rodent infestation had been assumed by the Ministry of Food, who had issued certain directions to Local Authori-

ties, but owing to shortage of staff it had been found impossible to carry out these directions, but it was hoped to give the matter the attention it called for in the new year.

Disinfestation is another matter mentioned in both Reports, that for 1943 and the one for 1967. It is noted that in the earlier Report 111 rooms were treated for vermin and 5 houses treated by a specialist firm with hydrogen cyanide, whereas in 1967 only 3 cases of bed bug infestation and 2 cases of fleas were discovered. The most striking differences between the two Reports are perhaps in those matters which appear in the earlier Report and no longer appear, or conversely, were not mentioned in the earlier Report and now assume some significance.

In the first instance, inspection of canal boats, of which 40 were inspected during the year, is one item, the canal no longer being used for commercial traffic and inspections in this field having ceased some years ago. Other matters are mainly those which were due to war conditions, i.e., inspection of billets and training of a food decontamination squad. In the second field, rodent control, which has already been mentioned, is now one of the major items of the Department's work, the Department employing a full-time Rodent Operator for this work, giving regular service to certain factories in the Town and treating all cases of infestation in private dwellings free of charge. Three items which found no place in the Report of 25 years ago because there was no legislation dealing with them, are noise abatement, offices, shops and railway premises, and clean air. These three items represent a considerable increase in the work carried out by the Department and show how, having removed some of the grosser insanitary conditions present 25 years ago, the attention of Public Health Authorities is now being turned to other aspects of improving the environmental conditions under which people work and live.

The work carried out during the year 1967 is as follows, the figures in brackets denoting work carried out during 1966.

HOUSING

Progress in the work of slum clearance was maintained during the year. Confirmation of the Park Street Clearance Area was received, and although the Minister confirmed that all the houses in the Area were unfit for occupation, he refused to confirm the Order in the case of three, suggesting that the Council deal with them in a manner other than by Clearance, presumably by Compulsory Purchase. In the case of three further houses in this Area, whilst confirming that they were unfit, he recommended that the attention of the owners, all elderly persons, be drawn to their rights to ask for an extension of the period in which the houses must be demolished to avoid undue hardship.

The Inquiry on the St. John's Road Area was held during the year, and was later confirmed.

Two further Areas were represented during the year, Brook Row and Hale Street. A local Public Inquiry into the Brook Row Clearance Order was held and confirmed, with the exception of No. 10. An objection to the Hale Street Area had been received, but the Inquiry had not been held by the end of the year. Considerable progress was made with the re-housing of tenants from already confirmed Areas, and the demolition of Walton Place and Walton Green was well advanced by the end of the year.

In addition to the above work, two individual houses were the subject of Closing Orders during the year.

Houses in multiple occupation continue to occupy a considerable amount of the time of the Department. All those known to be in such occupation were kept under continual surveillance. The work of providing satisfactory means of escape in case of fire was carried out at a number of houses in default of the owners, and work on the remainder will be done as and when contractors can be found to undertake this work. The one house referred to in last year's Report as being unsatisfactory has now been resolved, as only one tenant remains in occupation.

A number of houses in the Victoria Park area were again improved during the year, but further formal action in this case has been delayed awaiting the publication of a Government White Paper which promises amendments in the rather complicated procedure for securing compulsory improvement.

Seven cases in which rent books had not been supplied as required by the Landlord and Tenant Act, were reported during the year, but following informal action by the Department the rent books were supplied.

The general work carried out by the Department under the Housing Act is set out in the following table:—

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|----|----|----|-----|-------|
| Number of houses inspected | .. | .. | .. | 89 | (58) |
| Visits paid to above houses | .. | .. | .. | 252 | (220) |
| Informal Notices served | .. | .. | .. | 49 | (61) |
| Statutory Notices served | .. | .. | .. | 1 | (6) |
| Miscellaneous housing visits | .. | .. | .. | 85 | (98) |
| Multi-occupation housing visits | .. | .. | .. | 322 | (275) |
| Overcrowding visits | .. | .. | .. | 7 | (12) |
| Houses repaired:— | | | | | |
| By owners | .. | .. | .. | 20 | (27) |
| By the Borough Council in default | .. | .. | .. | — | — |

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS

The modern tendency to introduce specific legislation for dealing with matters affecting environmental hygiene and health, previously dealt with in omnibus fashion under the Public Health Acts, has had the result of leaving only a relatively small number of matters, the chief of which are drainage and matters appertaining to drainage, and nuisances, within the ambit of these Acts. As will be seen from the following table the main work of this Department under this heading relates to drainage and nuisances, and the notices served under the Public Health Acts are confined almost entirely to these two matters:—

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|----|----|----|-----|-------|
| Number of houses inspected | .. | .. | .. | 75 | (44) |
| Visits paid to above houses | .. | .. | .. | 155 | (112) |
| Drainage visits | .. | .. | .. | 405 | (522) |
| Drainage tests | .. | .. | .. | 16 | (25) |
| Nuisances found | .. | .. | .. | 185 | (125) |
| Nuisances abated | .. | .. | .. | 185 | (125) |
| Informal Notices served | .. | .. | .. | — | (—) |
| Statutory Notices served | .. | .. | .. | 14 | (24) |

NOISE ABATEMENT ACT, 1960

During the year a joint circular was issued by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government and the Welsh Office, drawing attention to some of the findings of the Committee referred to in my last Report. The circular called upon Local Authorities to make a determined attack on the problem of industrial noise, and recommended that in view of the experience in this field gained by Factory Inspectors, Local Authorities should consult the Inspectors before taking action in cases of noise nuisance arising from industrial sources. Reference was made in the circular to the suggestion put forward by certain Local Authorities that power might be sought to prohibit the use of ice cream chimes altogether. The Ministers felt, however, that the powers contained in section 2 of the Noise Abatement Act should be sufficient to ensure that this sort of nuisance is kept within reasonable bounds, and they suggest that Local Authorities might keep a separate register of complaints about ice cream chimes. Reference was made to the need for technical training for all Local Authority Officers who have to deal with noise problems, and the hope was expressed that Local Authorities would encourage their Officers to attend courses on noise measurement and abatement.

The works referred to at the factory regarding which complaints had been received last year, were carried out, since when no further complaints have been received from this source.

Twelve visits were made in connection with noise nuisance during the year, and four informal letters were sent, which resulted in the abatement of the nuisances complained of.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 AND 1948

The duties of the Department in connection with mechanical factories is limited to the inspection of conveniences, whilst all other aspects of cleanliness, heating, ventilation, etc., in such factories is in the province of the Factory Inspector. Visits are from time to time made to the factories in the town, particularly food factories in connection with food hygiene visits, and to all factories where canteens are provided in connection with those facilities. All these visits are included in the section of the Report connected with food and food hygiene, so that the number of visits shown under this section is not a true reflection of the visits actually made to factories.

| | | |
|---|-----|-------|
| Mechanical factories on register requiring visiting | 118 | (113) |
| Non-mechanical factories on register requiring visiting | 17 | (17) |
| Visits paid to factories | 63 | (75) |

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

The temporary Technical Assistant appointed for this work in July, 1966, left in July, 1967, but whilst he was with us 709 visits were made in connection with the Act, and at the end of the year most of the premises registered received their initial inspection.

Thirty-five informal notices were served during the year, the majority referring to minor infringements of the Act, i.e. provision of thermometers, first-aid boxes, abstracts of the Act, and similar matters. Very little difficulty is experienced in

securing compliance with the notices, and in no instance has it been necessary to institute legal proceedings for the enforcement of a notice. Nine accidents were reported during the year, none of which was fatal. In two cases the injuries resulted from the use of knives in the legitimate course of the business, and the only action necessary was more care on the part of the employee in using the knife. In one case an employee over stretched whilst cleaning a ceiling and fell from a ladder, whilst in another case a shoulder was dislocated when a man tried to catch a chair which was falling from a stock of furniture being delivered from a vehicle to premises. The remaining cases concerned persons slipping on wet or slippery surfaces. There was no case in which it was felt that negligence by the employer had contributed to the accident. A resume of the return required by the Ministry of Labour is appended:—

| Class of Premises | Number of premises registered during the year | Number receiving a general inspection during the year | Total number of registered premises at end of year | Total number of persons employed |
|--|---|---|--|----------------------------------|
| Offices | 10 | 11 | 155 | 1,454 |
| Retail Shops | 24 | 31 | 247 | 1,720 |
| Wholesale Shops, Warehouses | 1 | 5 | 20 | 305 |
| Catering Establishments open to the public, Canteens | 4 | 7 | 25 | 338 |
| Fuel Storage Depots .. | — | — | 1 | 32 |

SHOPS ACT, 1950

No further action was taken in regard to the suggestion that the late night closing be altered from Saturday to Friday, and no further approach has been made from shopkeepers on this point. The amending legislation which will enable a shopkeeper to choose his own late night had not been received by the end of the year.

Thirty-eight visits were made in connection with the Act during the year, and seventeen informal notices, sixteen in connection with the closing hours, were served on shopkeepers, all being complied with.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS AND DISINFESTATION

Although the figures of premises treated, points laid and rat and mouse bodies found, all show a slight reduction over the previous year, the figures are still sufficiently high to show that work in this connection is still necessary, and that no relaxing of effort is possible if the rodent population is to be kept in control. The test baiting of the manholes again showed no take and permission has now been received from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food to discontinue test baiting until 1969.

One problem which has given rise to some concern is the continued and increasing number of complaints regarding rats in roof spaces. These complaints concern estates in varying parts of the town, and on investigation it appeared that it was in large measure due to the modern practice of connecting rainwater down pipes directly to surface water drains without an intervening gully. The matter was referred to Committee, and the suggestion made that some form of barrier be inserted in the rainwater sewers to prevent rats gaining access from the final outfall to sewers and thence finding their way through the surface water drains to the gutters and into the roofs of buildings.

The agreement service for the treatment of factories and shops still continues, and is appreciated by those firms remaining within the agreement service; one or two companies having discontinued with the Borough Council owing to national action by the firms concerned in obtaining contracts with commercial servicing bodies. Work carried out on business premises other than by the agreement service is charged for, whilst a free service to private householders is continued.

The number of wasps nests destroyed rose again by some 300%, but as stated previously, this is due to conditions favourable to the breeding of wasps, and the number dealt with is bound to fluctuate from year to year.

Three reports of bed bug infestation were received and dealt with, and two of fleas. Other insect infestations in which assistance was given by the Department included ants, beetles and cockroaches.

A summary of the work carried out under this Act during the year is appended:—

| | | | | | |
|---|----|----|----|-----|-------|
| Private Premises treated | .. | .. | .. | 222 | (265) |
| Business Premises treated | .. | .. | .. | 78 | (101) |
| Local Authority Premises treated | .. | .. | .. | 13 | (11) |
| Rat bodies found | .. | .. | .. | 494 | (612) |
| Mouse bodies found | .. | .. | .. | 217 | (329) |
| Points laid—Private Premises | .. | .. | .. | 583 | (829) |
| Points laid—Business Premises | .. | .. | .. | 497 | (738) |
| Points laid—Local Authority Premises | .. | .. | .. | 121 | (108) |
| Manholes treated | .. | .. | .. | 87 | (80) |
| Visits made by Public Health Inspectors | .. | .. | .. | 111 | (79) |
| Wasps Nests destroyed | .. | .. | .. | 157 | (38) |

CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956

Although a further approach was made to the Council with regard to the implementation of the second Smoke Control Area, it was decided that in view of the financial situation action must be deferred once more. I have already drawn attention to the fact that a considerable period, now five years, has elapsed since the No. 1 Smoke Control Order was made. This means that for five years and more the occupants of one small portion of the Borough have been confined to the use of smokeless fuels, whilst all other parts of the town are free to burn whatever type of fuel they feel inclined to use. The Council had given an assurance to the Ministry of Housing

and Local Government in 1963, when the first Smoke Control Order was declared, that it was their intention to proceed as quickly as possible with the implementation of Smoke Control Areas. I feel I must point out that smoke control is one of the matters which has not come under the Ministry's economy cuts, and that during the past year, Hgh Wycombe, Oxford, Hemel Hempstead, to mention but three neighbouring Authorities, have introduced Smoke Control Orders. As I pointed out in my opening remarks in this Report, the Clean Air Act is one of the new pieces of legislation brought in during the last 25 years in an effort to improve the environment in which people live, and it is somewhat frustrating to feel that efforts in Aylesbury in this direction are not receiving the attention they deserve. It was again necessary to draw the attention of certain householders in Bedgrove to the fact that they were living in a Smoke Control Area, and three letters were sent to occupiers of premises who were using ordinary coal, informing them of the position. Complaints of industrial smoke were received concerning, in certain instances, incinerators, and also a considerable number of complaints from one Hospital chimney in the Borough. In the latter case it is intended in the ensuing year to build a new boilerhouse with new boilers burning oil fuel, when it is hoped that the cause for complaint will be removed, and no new cause will arise.

Three hundred and thirty-seven visits were made in connection with this Act during the year.

INVESTIGATION OF ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

The measurement of atmospheric pollution at the four stations in the Borough was continued during the year, but during the school holidays in August the two stations situated in schools were closed down. The latest set of tables I have received from Warren Spring Laboratory is up to August, 1967, and I append a table showing the monthly average concentrations of smoke and sulphur dioxide at the various stations.

It will be seen from the figures that the general pattern remains the same as in previous years, the Town Hall showing the highest concentrations, with the site in Bicester Road, lowest, and the Grammar School and Oak Green School sites coming somewhere between the two extremes.

There are two or three occasions when the figures do not follow the usual pattern, i.e., in November, 1966, the sulphur dioxide figure at the Grammar School was higher than that at the Town Hall, and the same was true in April, 1967. Investigations were made on these occasions and no definite cause was found.

**Monthly average concentrations of smoke and sulphur dioxide
in microgrammes per cubic metre**

| <i>Month</i> | <i>Smoke</i> | | | | <i>Sulphur Dioxide</i> | | | |
|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | <i>Site 1</i> | <i>Site 2</i> | <i>Site 3</i> | <i>Site 4</i> | <i>Site 1</i> | <i>Site 2</i> | <i>Site 3</i> | <i>Site 4</i> |
| Sept. 1966 | 34 | 35 | 30 | 41 | 25 | 39 | 44 | 40 |
| Oct. 1966 | 38 | 58 | 50 | 55 | 37 | 60 | 90 | 52 |
| Nov. 1966 | 62 | 106 | 75 | 80 | 55 | 111 | 132 | 87 |
| Dec. 1966 | 40 | 104 | 61 | 54 | 61 | 87 | 70 | 49 |
| Jan. 1967 | 55 | 107 | 81 | 66 | 81 | 123 | 108 | 59 |
| Feb. 1967 | 39 | 99 | 66 | 64 | 68 | 102 | 86 | 64 |
| Mar. 1967 | 16 | 60 | 26 | 23 | 45 | 54 | 55 | 28 |
| Apr. 1967 | 35 | 47 | 29 | 48 | 57 | 72 | 125 | 62 |
| May 1967 | 17 | 25 | 17 | 22 | 44 | 43 | 43 | 38 |
| June 1967 | N | 14 | 11 | 9 | N | 41 | 46 | 34 |
| July 1967 | 8 | 11 | 11 | 8 | 31 | 27 | 27 | 21 |
| Aug. 1967 | 11 | 16 | N | N | 37 | 30 | N | N |

Site 1—Unigate Creameries Ltd., Bicester Road

Site 2—Town Hall

Site 3—Grammar School, Walton Road

Site 4—Oak Green School

Note: ' N ' indicates that insufficient results were received to give a fair average.

FOOD

Slaughterhouse

The only remaining slaughterhouse in the Borough ceased operations in March, since when all meat consumed within the Borough is killed and inspected at slaughterhouses outside.

In addition to the detailed tables of causes of condemnation which follow, four carcasses were found to be affected with cysticercus bovis, the affected parts being condemned and the carcasses transferred to cold storage before being released for human consumption.

Eight slaughtermen's licences were issued during the year.

Number of animals slaughtered and inspected during 1967

| Period | Cows | Other Cattle | Calves | Sheep | Pigs | Total |
|------------------------------|------|--------------|--------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1st January to 31st March .. | 25 | 194 | — | 309 | 217 | 745 |
| Total for 1966 .. | 128 | 809 | 11 | 1,703 | 1,238 | 3,889 |

Table showing condemned organs of animals

CATTLE

| | Liver | Lungs | Head | Tongue | Spleen |
|----------------------|-------|-------|------|--------|--------|
| Distoma Hepaticum .. | 102 | — | — | — | — |
| Cysticercus Bovis .. | — | — | 4 | 4 | — |
| Abscessed | 8 | — | 1 | — | — |
| Fasciolae | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| Inflammation | 1 | — | — | — | 1 |
| Cavernous Angioma .. | 1 | — | — | — | — |

T.B. Reactor

Carcases Condemned (including all offal)

Generalised Tuberculosis .. 1

SHEEP

| | Liver | Pluck |
|----------------------|-------|-------|
| Parasitic | 120 | — |
| Pneumonia | — | 2 |
| Distoma Hepaticum .. | 10 | — |

Carcases Condemned (including all offal)

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Fevered and Imperfect Bleeding .. | 1 |
| Oedema | 3 |
| Pyæmia | 2 |
| Emaciation | 1 |
| Total: | 7 |

PIGS

| | Liver | Lungs | Heart | Head | Kidney |
|--------------------|-------|-------|-------|------|--------|
| Parasitic | 16 | 1 | — | — | — |
| Pneumonia | 1 | 8 | 2 | — | — |
| Inflammation | — | 3 | 2 | — | — |
| Tuberculosis | — | — | — | 2 | — |
| Cystic | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| Pleurisy | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| Pericarditis | — | — | 2 | — | — |

Carcases Condemned (including all offal)

| | | | |
|----------------------|----|----|---|
| Oedema and abscessed | .. | .. | 1 |
| Pleurisy | .. | .. | 1 |
| Oedema | .. | .. | 1 |
| Total: | | | 3 |

Weight of Condemned Meat and Offal

| | | | |
|--------------------|----|----|-------|
| | | | lbs. |
| Cow Offal | .. | .. | 28 |
| Other Beef | .. | .. | 825 |
| Other Bovine Offal | .. | | 1,628 |
| Pork | .. | .. | 320 |
| Pig Offal | .. | .. | 100 |
| Mutton | .. | .. | 323 |
| Sheep Offal | .. | .. | 276 |
| Total: | | | 3,500 |

Total: 1 ton 11 cwts. 1 qtr. 0 lbs. 0 ozs.

Total for 1966: 3 tons 10 cwts. 1 qtr. 16 lbs. 0 ozs.

The amount of foodstuffs surrendered and disposed of from wholesale and retail premises in the Borough as a result of inspections carried out, often on request from shopkeepers, follows:—

| | WEIGHT | | Number |
|-----------------------|--------|------|--------|
| | lbs. | ozs. | |
| Butter | 39 | 6 | — |
| Cheese | — | 9 | — |
| Fresh Meat | 536 | 12 | — |
| Fresh Fish | 48 | — | — |
| Tinned Vegetables .. | 3,804 | 14 | 2,385 |
| Tinned Fruit | 5,140 | 15 | 534 |
| Tinned Meat | 1,095 | 15 | 156 |
| Tinned Milk | 95 | — | 138 |
| Tinned Fish | 781 | 8 | 1,192 |
| Preserves | 138 | 12 | 92 |
| Miscellaneous | 1,477 | 11 | 2,046 |
| <i>Frozen Foods:—</i> | | | |
| Meat | 2,147 | 9 | — |
| Vegetables | 175 | 2 | — |
| Fish | 210 | 8 | — |
| Fruit | 1 | 2 | — |
| Miscellaneous | 28 | — | — |
| Total: | 15,721 | 11 | 6,543 |

Total foodstuffs condemned during the year:—

| | | | | | | | |
|--------------------|----|----|--------|----------|---------|---------|---------|
| Meat and Offal | .. | .. | 1 ton | 11 cwts. | 1 qtr. | 0 lbs. | 0 ozs. |
| Various Foodstuffs | .. | .. | 7 tons | 0 cwts. | 1 qtr. | 13 lbs. | 11 ozs. |
| Total: | | | 8 tons | 11 cwts. | 2 qtrs. | 13 lbs. | 11 ozs. |
| Total for 1966 | .. | .. | 8 tons | 17 cwts. | 0 qtrs. | 21 lbs. | 9 ozs. |

Twelve complaints concerning foreign bodies in food were received during the year. Commodities complained of included confectionery goods, fish and flour. In the case of the fish, which concerned worms in a portion of cod, the worms were identified as *filaria bicolor*. This is a worm infestation commonly found in cod, but as it is impossible for the fishmonger to realise its presence, or for anyone to discover it except when cutting the actual portion of fish affected, it was not felt that action should be taken in this case. In the case of the insects in flour, it was finally established that these had gained access in the house, and in the other cases investigated it was not felt that undue negligence had occurred, and in no case was a prosecution instituted. In all cases investigations were carried out and action suggested to prevent recurrence of the complaints.

MILK AND DAIRIES

The only duty now remaining with the Borough Council under this heading is that of registering milk retailers. The milk distribution trade is now confined to the distribution of milk in bottles and containers as received from wholesalers, and supervision by this Department is very much less important than it was in previous years. Eighteen visits were made to dairy premises during the year. Milk producers are licensed and controlled by the County Agricultural Committee acting as agents for the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

ICE CREAM

One hundred and twenty-four premises in the area are registered for the sale of ice cream, in addition to which a number of vendors who are not subject to registration tour the streets in various vehicles selling ice cream and ice lollies. The majority of the ice cream sold in the Borough by the various retailers is produced by a relatively small number of large manufacturers, and it is therefore unnecessary to take a large number of samples to check the methods of production. Ten samples of ice cream were submitted for analysis during the year and were graded as follows:—

| | | |
|---------|----|-----------|
| Grade 1 | .. | 6 samples |
| Grade 2 | .. | 1 sample |
| Grade 3 | .. | 3 samples |

Thirty-eight visits were paid to registered ice cream dealers premises during the year.

FOOD SHOPS, RESTAURANTS, ETC.

The general standard of cleanliness and hygiene in food premises remained satisfactory throughout the year, and no cause for formal action arose. Constant vigilance is needed in relation to food shops to ensure that the need for food hygiene is realized and maintained by the staff, and efforts are made to ensure that all restaurants and canteens, in particular, are visited at least twice each year.

The table setting out the inspections made in this connection follows:—

| | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|-----|-------|
| Market Stalls | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 609 | (689) |
| Grocers | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 130 | (131) |
| Butchers | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 70 | (40) |
| Restaurants and Canteens | | | .. | .. | .. | 99 | (33) |
| Fishmongers | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 36 | (23) |
| Food Preparing Premises | | | .. | .. | .. | 23 | (22) |

Fourteen informal notices were served under the Food Hygiene Regulations during the year, eleven of which were complied with by the end of December.

MARKET STALLS AND DELIVERY VEHICLES

The Food Hygiene (Market Stalls and Delivery Vehicles) Regulations, 1966, came into force on 1st January, 1967. These regulations have strengthened the powers of Local Authorities to control the conditions under which food is sold from market stalls and delivery vehicles. As I reported to Committee last year, when commenting on these regulations, the steps originally taken in conjunction with the Borough Treasurer and Borough Surveyor to ensure that satisfactory provision was made at the food stalls in the kiosk shopping area, Lower Friars Square, covered all the points arising under the regulations, and no further work was necessary to enable these stalls to comply with them.

Considerable attention has been paid by the Department to the delivery vehicles operating in the town, and 24 informal notices have been sent to the proprietors of such vehicles concerning breaches of the regulations, 9 of which had been satisfactorily completed at the end of the year.

WATER SUPPLY

Every house in the Borough is supplied with piped water obtained from the Chiltern Hills by the Bucks Water Board. Eleven samples of water were taken from the main service during the year, and all proved satisfactory.

PETROLEUM

Although the number of petroleum spirit licences has increased by one during the year, the quantity of spirit licensed to be stored has dropped by some 12,000 gallons. This is due to the fact that two storage depots in the town, who were licensed for large quantities of petroleum spirit have closed and in neither case have licences for the storage of petroleum spirit been issued in their place. One company has left Aylesbury altogether, and in the other case, their new depot at the moment is used for the storage of paraffin and diesel oil only, which is not subject to licence, and no petroleum spirit is stored on the premises.

The self-service petroleum station mentioned in my last Report has not yet been put into operation, but one of the existing licensees has, in fact, with the consent of the Council, changed over from manual to self-service operation. So far this appears to be working satisfactorily, and no cause for complaint has arisen at this station. There is a move afoot amongst the larger petroleum pump companies to press for the installation of pre-payment self-service on unattended stations. Personally, I feel that this is a dangerous step and unless considerably more safeguards against the possible misuse of petroleum can be built into such stations, I should not recommend the Council to grant a licence for an unattended self-service station within the Borough.

Particulars of licences issued and quantities licensed to be stored are as follows:—

| | | |
|--|----|------|
| Licences issued for storage of Petroleum Spirit and Mixtures | 71 | (70) |
| Licences issued for storage of Carbide of Calcium | 1 | (1) |
| Inspection of Petrol and Carbide Stores | 62 | (46) |

Quantity licensed to be stored:—

| | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------|------------------|
| Petroleum Spirit | 232,244 galls. | (248,140 galls.) |
| Petroleum Mixtures | 2,230 galls. | (2,249 galls.) |
| Carbide of Calcium | 300 lbs. | (300 lbs.) |
| Total of Licence Fees | £78.10.0 | (£79.5.0) |

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

During the year the new public conveniences in Friars Square were brought into use. The Committee gave careful consideration to the manning of these conveniences and decided that they should be open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and should be fully manned during the whole of the time they were open. Further, Committee decided, and Council agreed, that these conveniences should be free, and in order to have a uniform policy throughout the Borough it was decided also to remove the coin locks from the conveniences at Kingsbury, and that in future all fully manned conveniences would be free, but coin locks would be retained at unattended conveniences. The decision to man Friars Square conveniences meant an increase in the staff of the lavatory attendants of two men and two women, who were also responsible for the maintenance of the conveniences provided for the staffs of the Lower Friars Square Kiosks and the market stall-holders, which were also free of charge. In addition to this, the male attendants at Friars Square are responsible for the cleanliness of the conveniences at the multi-storey car park.

The public conveniences in the town were maintained throughout the year in a satisfactory condition. The damage and disfigurement referred to in my previous Annual Reports continues, but with the new staff and the efforts to keep the walls clean, the disfigurement does not seem to be so bad as in previous years, and it is hoped that the discouragement of losing their literary or artistic efforts so soon after their completion will make the persons responsible realise the error of their ways.

MISCELLANEOUS

Other work of the Department not covered by any of the previous headings include the following:—

| | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|----|----|-------|---------|
| Miscellaneous Public Health Visits | .. | .. | 663 | (494) |
| Interviews | .. | .. | 1,630 | (1,406) |
| Complaints received and investigated | | .. | 324 | (259) |
| Infectious Disease Visits | .. | .. | 71 | (172) |
| Smoke Visits | .. | .. | 47 | (23) |
| Moveable Dwellings Inspected | .. | .. | 20 | (3) |
| Pet Animals Act Visits | .. | .. | 33 | (34) |
| Public Convenience Visits | .. | .. | 899 | (668) |

Ten scrap metal dealers are registered in the Borough.

GENERAL

Reference has already been made to the Food Hygiene (Market Stalls and Delivery Vehicles) Regulations, 1966, which came into operation on 1st January, 1967. This was the only new legislation affecting the Department during the year.

Mr. Knight, who was appointed in 1966 as a Technical Assistant, left in July, 1967, and apart from this, the staff remains unchanged.

In conclusion I would like to express my thanks to the Members of the Council and Committee for their continued help and confidence, to my fellow Officers for advice and assistance, and last, but by no means least, to the members of the staff of the Department for the efficient and cheerful manner in which they have carried out their duties during the year.

I am,

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

Your obedient Servant,

W. EWART RUSE, A.R.S.H., F.A.P.H.I.,

Borough Public Health Inspector.

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